

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 FEA-02 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EB-11

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R 201847Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4163

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3726

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USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0931

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF CURRENT POL SHORTAGE ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES

REF: USNATO 469

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PO/74/20 DATED FEB 19, FROM LUNS TO DPC
PERMREPS ON ABOVE SUBJECT. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
WASHINGTON GUIDANCE AS REQUESTED REFTEL. BEGIN TEXT.

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE RECEIVED COPIES
OF THE MEMORANDUM ON THIS SUBJECT(1) ADDRESSED TO ME BY THE
MILITARY COMMITTEE ON 25TH JANUARY. THEY WILL HAVE NOTED THE
MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND BY
NATIONS TO LIMIT MILITARY CONSUMPTION OF POL PRODUCTS IN THE
FACE OF CURRENT SHORTAGES, AND TO MAINTAIN THE REQUIRED LEVEL
OF RESERVES.

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2. THEY WILL ALSO HAVE NOTED THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY
THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES ON THE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE
TRAINING AND READINESS OF FORCES OF ANY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS
IN THE SCALE AND NATURE OF THE PLANNED EXERCISE PROGRAMME;

IN THIS CONTEXT PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE IS ATTACHED TO EXERCISES INVOLVING THE AMF. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE URGES COUNTRIES TO INFORM THEIR PUBLICS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING MILITARY TRAINING TO MAINTAIN THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS AND DETERRENT VALUE OF NATO FORCES. IN THIS CONNECTION, I MIGHT REMIND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES THAT IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED(2) THAT MILITARY CONSUMPTION ACCOUNTS FOR ONLY SOME 3 1/2 PER CENT OF TOTAL CRUDE OIL SUPPLIES THROUGHOUT THE ALLIANCE, AND ONLY AN INSIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF THIS IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO NATO EXERCISES.

3. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM ALSO REFERS BRIEFLY TO THE PROBABLE EFFECTS OF INCREASES OF ENERGY PRICES ON NATIONAL DEFENCE BUDGETS. I DOUBT WHETHER THE DIRECT EFFECTS OF THE HIGHER COSTS OF POL CONSUMED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE VERY SIGNIFICANT; BUT THE INDIRECT (I.E. THE INCREASED PRESSURES ON DEFENCE EXPENDITURES CAUSED BY RESULTANT PRICE INCREASES THROUGHOUT THE CIVILIAN ECONOMY) MAY INDEED BE A CAUSE FOR GRAVE CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE. WE SHALL BEST BE ABLE TO ASSESS THE LIKELY EFFECTS ON DEFENCE BUDGETS AND THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS DURING THE COURSE OF THE NATO DEFENCE REVIEW IN THE AUTUMN OF THIS YEAR.

4. I PROPOSE TO PLACE THIS DOCUMENT ON AN EARLY AGENDA OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

(1) MCM-8-74
(2) C-M(73)93

END TEXT
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